

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A tape cartridge which is insertable at a tape drive which includes a rotating member and carries out at least one of reading and writing of data, the tape cartridge comprising:

a reel inside the tape cartridge, the rotating member of the tape drive being engageable with the reel at a time of insertion of the tape cartridge, for transmitting rotary driving force to the reel;

a brake member having a protruding portion, the brake member being ~~which is~~ reciprocally movable between a locking position for prohibiting rotation of the reel and an unlocking position for enabling rotation of the reel; and

a release pad having a protruding portion, the release pad being ~~which is~~ capable of engaging with the rotating member and abutting against the brake member for moving the brake member to the unlocking position,

wherein a rubbing surface, which is provided on the protruding portion of the brake member and abuts a rubbing surface provided on the protruding portion of the release pad, is formed of metal and includes a convexly curved surface ~~one of mutually abutting portions of the brake member and the release pad includes a metallic surface having which includes one of a flat surface form and~~ with a spherical form with a spherical radius of at least 3 mm, and the rubbing

surface of the release pad is formed of resin and is formed as a flat surface.~~other of the mutually abutting portions includes a resin surface having which includes one of a flat surface form and a curvedly recessed surface form.~~

2. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the one abutting portion includes a metallic surface that includes a spherical form with a spherical radius of at least 14 mm, and the other abutting portion includes a resin surface with a curvedly recessed surface form that includes a spherical radius equal to or greater than the radius of the one abutting portion.

3. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 1, further comprising an urging member which continuously urges the brake member toward the locking position.

4. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the release pad is linearly movable in a direction of an axis of rotation of the reel.

5. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 4, wherein the brake member is movable between the locking position and the unlocking position in conjunction with the linear movement of the release pad.

6. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 1, further comprising a case which rotatably accommodates the reel.

7. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 6, wherein the reel comprises a reel gear which is engageable with the rotating member of the tape drive for transmitting the driving force.

8. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 7, wherein an aperture is formed in the case, and the reel gear is exposed through the aperture to outside the case.

9. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 8, wherein the reel gear and the release pad are respectively engageable, through the aperture, with the rotating member of the tape drive.

10. (currently amended): A tape cartridge which is insertable at a tape drive which includes a rotating member and carries out at least one of reading and writing of data, the tape cartridge comprising:

a reel inside the tape cartridge, the rotating member of the tape drive being engageable with the reel at a time of insertion of the tape cartridge, for transmitting rotary driving force to the reel;

a brake member which is reciprocally movable between a locking position for prohibiting rotation of the reel and an unlocking position for enabling rotation of the reel; and

an abutting portion provided at the brake member, the abutting portion being fabricated of metal and including an abutting surface which is capable of directly abutting against the

rotating member for moving the brake member to the unlocking position at the time of insertion of the tape cartridge.

11. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 10, wherein the abutting surface comprises a flat surface.

12. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 10, wherein the abutting surface comprises a protruding surface.

13. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 10, wherein the abutting surface comprises a spherical surface with a spherical radius of at least 3 mm.

14. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 10, further comprising an urging member which continuously urges the brake member toward the locking position.

15. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 10, further comprising a case which rotatably accommodates the reel.

16. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 15, wherein the reel comprises a reel gear which is engageable with the rotating member of the tape drive for transmitting the driving force.

17. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 16, wherein an aperture is formed in the case, and the reel gear is exposed through the aperture to outside the case.

18. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 17, wherein the reel gear is engageable, through the aperture, with the rotating member of the tape drive.

19. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 10, wherein a through-hole is formed in the reel, and the abutting portion of the brake member is exposed through the through-hole to outside the case.

20. (original): The tape cartridge of claim 19, wherein the abutting portion of the brake member is engageable, through the through-hole, with the rotating member of the tape drive.

21. (new): The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the rubbing surface of the brake member is mirror finished.

22. (new): The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the rubbing surface of the release pad is mirror finished.

23. (new): The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the protruding portion of the release pad is formed in a circular column shape.

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24. (new): The tape cartridge of claim 1, wherein the protruding portion of the brake member is formed in a circular column shape.

25. (new): The tape cartridge of claim 24, wherein the column shaped protruding portion of the brake member is formed of stainless steel.